RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 16th December, 1987/ 25 Agrahayana, 1909 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock, **Mr. Chairman** in the Chair

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. CHAIRMAN. Hon. Members, before we take up today's agenda, I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Shri P Ramamurti, a former Member of the Rajya Sabha and a veteran trade union leader. Shri Ramamurti who led a life of great simplicity and service, passed away at Madras yesterday after a prolonged illness. A person of socialist and leftist ideas, Shri P. Ramamurti's record of service for the emancipation of exploited and working class won for him a place of eminence amongst the trade union workers. A veteran freedom fighter, Shri Ramamurti actively participated in the non-co-operation movement during the country's struggle for independence and had suffered imprisonment.

Shri P. Ramamurti was born at Madras in September 1908 and had his education at Madras and in the National School run by late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Purushottam Das Tandon at Allahabad and Banaras Hindu University. An active political and trade union leader, Shri Ramamurti was closely associated with several trade unions, labour welfare organisations, and he always espoused the cause of the poor and the downtrodden He was Assistant Secretary, Harijan Sewak Sangh, Madras and Executive Committee Member of the Dakshin Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha, Madras. He was a member of the politburo of the Communist Party of India for a number of years. He wrote many reports as General Secretary of CITU.

Shri P. Ramamurti had a long parliamentary career spanning nearly three decades. He served the Madras Legislative Assembly from 1952 to 1957 and there he was also the leader of the Opposition. He was a Member of this House from 1960 to 1966 and again from 1977 to 1983 and in between he was a Member of the Lok Sabha from 1967 to 1970. A forceful speaker and an active and adept parliamentarian, he left no opportunity to plead the cause of the exploited. His contribution to the debates of this House has been constructive and substantial. A fearless exponent of his view. Shri Ramamurti devoted his life to get the poor their rightful due. In his death, the country has lost a trusted worker in the cause of the poor.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Shri P. Ramamurti.

I request Members to rise in their places and observe a minute's silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

(Hon. Members then stood in silence for a minute)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Secretary-General will convey to the Members of the bereaved family our deep sense of sorrow and profound sympathy.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER—CORRECTING THE REPLY GIVEN IN THE RAJYA SABHA ON THE 25TH NOVEMBER 1987 TO UNSTARRED QUESTION 1838 REGARDING D T.C. CONDUCTORS/DRIVERS SUSPENDED BY PATPARGANJ DEPOT MANAGER

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): Sir I beg to lay on the Table a statement (in English and Hindi) correcting the reply given in the Rajya Sabha on the 25th November, 1987, to Unstarred Question 1838 regarding D.T.C. conductors/drivers suspended by Patparganj Depot Manager.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

I. **Report and Accounts (1985-86) of the National Bicycle Corporation of**